

THE WHISTLE

the whistle refuses to tell you its tune. you throw it into the river and watch until it can no longer swim. then you rescue it. this happens many times. but the whistle remains silent. you grow angry with it and blow into it with all your might hoping that it will shatter like a balloon. something quite different happens. you spend the rest of the afternoon trying to regather your silence.

THE TERMINAL

you are vomiting into your husband's hat. he has gone for a minute to confirm the reservations, not realizing the surprise you are creating for him. you think it was something you ate. you refuse to admit that you are pregnant again. they are announcing your flight. your husband has still not returned and for the first time you smell the fumes that are rising from the hat. it becomes hard to think of anything else.

PASSING THE BLAME

catch him on the street. someone not at all like you. make him touch these things. here. here. and here. make sure he leaves clear prints. tomorrow he will turn up a suicide. days later the car with the contraband will be found. they will question all his friends. this is called passing the blame.

THE DRAMA

-- for Harry G.

the man who invented tact wants to marry your sister-in-law. he has known her for a whole week. they have even been so adventurous as to touch hands. he comes to ask your permission. he has seen you polishing your rifle. he knows you are the one he must ask. you lean back in your chair and stare into his eyes. his words flow like butter.

NEWS BRIEF

notice the president. he is the third from the left. he is smiling. he is surrounded by men who once played football. they are old and fat. one is black. he is laughing the hardest.

-- Bob Heman

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